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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.	
10/743,523	12/23/2003	Honjung Lee	118109	7335	
92793	7590	12/22/2010			
Oliff & Berridge, PLC		EXAMINER			
P.O. Box 320850		KENNEDY, NICOLETTA			
Alexandria, VA 22320-4850		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER		
		1611			
		NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE	
		12/22/2010		ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

OfficeAction92793@oliff.com  
jarmstrong@oliff.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/743,523	<b>Applicant(s)</b> LEE ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> Nicoletta Kennedy	<b>Art Unit</b> 1611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2010.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-22,24-59,61-80 and 84-92 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-22,24-59,61-73,76-78,84,87 and 88 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 74,75,79,80,85,86 and 89-92 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/12/10
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Status of Claims***

Claims 74-75, 79-80, 85-86 and 89-92 are currently under examination.

***Priority***

This application, filed December 23, 2003, claims priority to provisional application 60/439,803, filed January 14, 2003 and to French application 02 116655, filed December 24, 2002.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on June 1, 2010 has been entered.

***Withdrawn Rejection and Objection***

2. The rejection of claims 74-75, 79-80, 85-86 and 89-92 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraphs, are withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments.
3. The objection to claims 74-75, 79-80, 85-86 and 89-92 are withdrawn in view of Applicant's amendments.

***Modified Rejection of Record***

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

6. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was

not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

**7. Claims 74-75, 79-80 and 85-86 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada et al. (U.S. Patent 5,463,009) and Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent 6,759,052), in view of Yau (U.S. Patent 6,109,921), in further view of Giron et al. (U.S. 2003/0067545 A1), Chapman et al. (US Patent 6,121,192), and Herbst et al. (Industrial Organic Pigments, published 1993).**

The claims are drawn to a method for making up dark skin comprising applying to the skin a composition comprising an organic coloring agent, a mineral pigment and reflective particles comprising at least one nacre. The rejection of record is modified to point to a specific organic coloring agent taught by Suzuki et al.

Okada et al. (US Patent 5,463,009) teach fluorine-modified silicone derived perfluoroalkyl water-repellant cosmetics for use in protecting the skin from water or for preventing makeup up from getting disordered by water or sweat in the form, for example, cosmetics for foundation (col. 1, line 17 col. 2, line 19; see cols. 11-13, Examples 4-8). Okada et al. disclose an evaluation method for applying the foundation for wearability, retention, and feel on the skin (col. 11, line 52 to col. 12, line 18). Okada et al. exemplify compositions comprising iron oxide red, yellow, and black (= applicant's elected coloring agent), fluorine compounded- treated pigments, glycerin and water (cols. 11-12, Table 2). Okada et al. teach that the retention of the foundation was evaluated in terms of the degree of removal of the foundation from the skin 8 hours after

application. Okada et al. teach that other cosmetic ingredients may be included in the composition, including colorants, such as organic and inorganic pigments, organic dyes, as well as fluorine compound- treated pigment to prevent makeup from getting disordered due to sebum (col. 5, lines 25-49). Okada et al. exemplify compositions comprising iron oxide red, yellow, and black (= applicant's elected coloring agent), fluorine compounded-treated pigments, and water (cols. 11-12, Table 2).

Okada et al. do not teach compositions comprising mica brown iron oxide (i.e. applicant's elected reflective particle species), do not specify the organic dye or pigment and is silent regarding methods for making up dark skin or lightening dark skin comprising a composition having hue angle  $h$  ranging from 40 degrees to 70 degrees, an a saturation  $C^*$  ranging from 20 to 50.

Suzuki et al. (US Patent 6,759,052) teach a liquid eye shadow cosmetic composition comprising iron oxide coated titanated mica, perfluoropolyether, and purified water (col. 22, Example 32). Suzuki et al. additionally teach that organic powders may be used (column 5, lines 50-65) and exemplify several organic powders including D&C Red No. 6, D&C Red No. 7 and FD&C Yellow No. 5 aluminum lake (organic coloring agent having reflectance with a dominant wavelength of a yellow or orange coloration in a range from 550 to 675 nm) (column 16, examples 12-13).

Yau (US Patent 6,109,921) teaches methods for making up dark skin using a mannequin model, including the application of foundations (col. 6, lines 14-47). Yau suggest that differences due to ethnic and/or racial origin need to be considered when applying makeup (col. 6, lines 14- 47).

Giron et al. (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0067545 A1) is added to show the general state of knowledge regarding use of CIE 1976 color scheme. Giron et al. teach a calibration device that allows the acquisition of calorimetric coordinates at a point of the image, which can be part of a reference colorimetric space, such as, for example the space according to the CIE 1976 CIELAB system; the calibration device permits the measurement of differences in color, shade and clarity, and is advantageous when a person's appearance is compared before and after a treatment with a care product or an application of a makeup.

Chapman et al. (US Patent 6,121,192) is added to show the general state of knowledge regarding compositions comprising colorants and use of CIE and hue angles as parameters for expressing colors (col. 1, line 52 to col. 2, line 51). Chapman et al. teach orange ink manufactured as a reference material and its CEILAB color coordinates measured at a status T density of 1.49, wherein CIELAB was used to express colors in terms of three parameters. L\*, a\*, and b\* (cols. 9-10). A plot of a\* versus b\* values for a color sample can be used to accurately show where that sample lies in color space i.e. hue (col. 10, lines 19-37). Chapman et al. teach that color differences can also be expressed in terms of a hue angle and saturation C\* (col. 10, lines 39-56). Chapman et al. teach that an orange dye-donor element provides a close match to an orange printing ink control (col. 10, lines 57-60). It is noted that Chapman is being relied upon to only show that methods for determining CIELAB color coordinates with respect hue angles, and saturation C\* are known.

Herbst et al. is added to show the advantages of using organic pigments.

It is noted that active method steps of applying a composition comprising both coloring agents and reflective particles in the same composition are considered to be the functional equivalent of applying a composition/coat comprising the coloring agent as a separate composition (= a first composition or first coat) and applying a second composition (or second coat) comprising the reflective particles because the end treatment effect would be the same in the absence of unexpected results. Further, it is the examiner's position that it would have been routine in the cosmetic art at the time the invention was made to modify the reflectance of the composition without undue experimentation.

It would have obvious to a person of skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add the iron oxide coated titanated mica (= reflective material) composition as taught by Suzuki et al. to the composition comprising iron oxide (= coloring agent), and water (= physiologically acceptable medium) taught by Okada et al. for additive coloring effects. One would have been motivated to add the iron oxide coated titanated mica composition to the composition comprising iron oxide (= coloring agent), and water (= physiologically acceptable medium because Okada et al. suggest that colorants may be added to the composition.

Also, it would have been obvious to a person of skill in the art at the time the invention was made to treat dark skin as taught by Yau by applying the composition comprising iron oxide and iron oxide coated titanated mica to said skin for makeup effects. One would have been motivated to treat dark skin via by applying the composition via the mannequin model because Yau suggest that ethnic/racial

differences need to be considered when applying makeup and both Okada et al. and Suzuki et al. teach makeup compositions.

Further, it would have been obvious to a person of skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the CIE 1976 scheme taught by Giron et al. to determine the color coordinates of the coloring agents of the composition. One would have been motivated to use the CIE 1976 scheme to determine the color coordinates of the coloring agent of the composition because Giron et al. teach a calibration device that allows the acquisition of calorimetric coordinates at a point of the image, which can be part of a reference colorimetric space, such as, for example the space according to the CIE 1976 CIELAB system calibration device permits the measurement of differences in color, shade and clarity, and which is advantageous when a person's appearance is compared before and after a treatment with a care product or an application of a makeup and Okada et al., Suzuki et al., and Yau all directed to methods of applying makeup.

In addition, it would have been obvious to a person of skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the hue angle and saturation C\* of the composition as taught by Chapman et al., including the instant claimed hue angle and saturation C\*, for cosmetic effects. Although Chapman is directed to ink composition, its teaching of methods for determining CIELAB color coordinates with respect hue angles, and saturation C\* is considered to be relevant regarding the determination of CIELAB coordinates. One would have been motivated to modify the hue angle and saturation C\* of the composition for cosmetic effects because both Chapman et al. and Giron et al.

teach CIE 1976 color scheme, while both Okada et al., Suzuki et al. and Yau are directed to methods of applying makeup compositions comprising coloring agents. Hence, the cited art is found to be capable of performing the desired function. It would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use an organic pigment in the preparation.

One would have been motivated to do so looking towards the teaching of Okada et al. that organic pigments are acceptable (column 5, lines 25-49) and further motivated by the advantages described throughout Herbst. More specifically, Herbst teaches that organic pigments are advantageous because they are lower in toxicity, both acute and after repeated application (page 595). Further, they show very low irritation effects (Table 37). Such effects are especially advantageous in a topical composition and to the instant method.

Regarding the limitation of "having reflectance with a dominant wavelength of a yellow or orange coloration in a range from 550 to 675 nm," Okada et al. teaches the instantly elected coloring agent (i.e. yellow, red and black iron oxides) and Suzuki teaches the organic pigment FD&C Yellow No. 5 aluminum lake which would inherently possess the instantly claimed wavelength range.

Thus, a person of skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to create the instant claimed invention with reasonable predictability.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed June 1, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that Okada does not disclose a composition

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comprising at least one organic coloring agent with a dominant wavelength of a yellow or orange coloration in a range from 550 to 675 nm (remarks, p. 18). The examiner agrees with this argument but has cited Suzuki to cure this deficiency. Applicant further argues unexpected results of uniform and natural appearance without imparting a grey or ashen appearance. Looking to the declaration filed April 28, 2009, it appears that composition A is asserted to be free of the grey or ashen appearance while composition B has this appearance. However, composition A and B differ in numerous aspects, not the least of which is that composition B includes titanium dioxide which is known in the art to cause a grey or ashen appearance on dark skin (see Fornay (African- American woman's guide, published 2002, p. 80, cited and relied upon below for this specific teaching). To directly compare the effect of each claimed variable, numerous examples need to be provided with only one variable per example.

**8. Claims 89-92 are rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada et al. (U.S. Patent 5,463,009) and Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent 6,759,052), in view of Yau (U.S. Patent 6,109,921), in further view of Giron et al. (U.S. 2003/0067545 A1), Chapman et al. (US Patent 6,121,192), and Herbst et al. (Industrial Organic Pigments, published 1993), as applied to claims 74-75, 79-80 and 85-86 above, and further in view of Fornay (African- American woman's guide, published 2002).**

The teachings of Okada et al., Suzuki et al., Yau, Giron et al., Chapman et al. and Herbst et al. are incorporated herein as applied above.

None of the above references teach a composition or method of applying a composition that is free of titanium dioxide.

Fomay is drawn to a make-up and skin care guide specifically for women with darker skin. On page 80, Fomay teaches that titanium dioxide gives an ashy or gray look to black (i.e. African-American or dark) skin.

It would have been *prima facie* obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine Okada et al., Suzuki et al., Yau, Giron et al., Chapman et al. and Herbst et al. with the teachings of Fornay and make the composition instantly claimed in the method titanium dioxide free. One would have been motivated to do so because Fomay teaches that titanium dioxide gives an undesirable ashy or gray appearance to dark skin.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed June 1, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The above response is incorporated herein. Further, Formay teaches that titanium dioxide in makeup for women with darker skin causes a gray or ashy appearance to the skin. Thus, leaving the titanium dioxide out of the makeup, as was done in example A in the declaration, would be expected to lessen the gray or ashy appearance of the skin.

9. **Claims 74-75, 79-80, 85-86 and 89-92 are rejected under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simon (U.S. 6,451,294, issued September 17, 2002) in view of Okada et al. (US Patent 5,463,009), and Yau (US Patent 6,109,921), and in further view of Giron et al. (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0067545 A1), Chapman et al. (US Patent 6,121,192), Herbst et al. (Industrial Organic Pigments, published 1993) and Fornay (African-American woman's guide, published 2002).**

The applied reference has a common inventor with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) might be overcome by: (1) a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not an invention "by another"; (2) a showing of a date of invention for the claimed subject matter of the application which corresponds to subject matter disclosed but not claimed in the reference, prior to the effective U.S. filing date of the reference under 37 CFR 1.131; or (3) an oath or declaration under 37 CFR 1.130 stating that the application and reference are currently owned by the same party and that the inventor named in the application is the prior inventor under 35 U.S.C. 104, together with a terminal disclaimer in accordance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). This rejection might also be overcome by showing that the reference is disqualified under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) as prior art in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). See MPEP § 706.02(1)(1) and § 706.02(1)(2).

The above discussions of Okada et al. (US Patent 5,463,009) and Yau (US Patent 6,109,921), and in further view of Giron et al. (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0067545 A1), Chapman et al. (US Patent 6,121,192), Herbst et al. and Fomay are incorporated here as stated above. The rejection is modified to include the teaching of yellow and orange dyes by Simon.

Simon discloses a method for making up human skin, lips, and/or exoskeletal appendages (e.g., see claims 7 and 39-41) comprising applying a composition process for making up skin comprising a composition comprising a dye. The dye may be an

orange or yellow (organic coloring agent having a reflectance wavelength of a yellow or orange coloration in a range from 550 to 675 nm) (column 5, lines 48-57). Simon further discusses the invention as a kit comprising two makeup compositions, each having at least one pigment (column 1, lines 13-21) and teaches that the light incidence and viewing angle should be considered in the use of the compositions (column 2, lines 22-31). Simon further teaches the use of nacreous pigments such as mica coated with titanium dioxide or iron dioxide (column 5, lines 58-65, also applicant's elected reflective particle species).

It would have been *prima facie* obvious to a person of skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add reflective particles as taught by the prior cited art for application to dark skin for additive cosmetic effect. One would have been motivated to add reflective particles to the composition for its additive cosmetic effect because the '294 reference and the cited art are concerned with making up of the skin and further concerned with the effect that light incidence and viewing angle have on the results of the application of the makeup (and coloring agents/reflective particles) to the face (abstract).

"It is *prima facie* obvious to combine two compositions each of which is taught by the prior art to be useful for the same purpose, in order to form a third composition to be used for the very same purpose ....[T]he idea of combining them flows logically from their having been individually taught in the prior art." *In re Kerkhoven*, 626 F.2d 846, 850, 205 USPQ 1069, 1072 (CCPA 1980)."

Thus, in view of the cited prior art, it would have been *prima facie* obvious to the skilled artisan to arrive at the instantly claimed invention.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed June 1, 2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The above response to arguments is herein incorporated. Further, Simon does teach the organic dye as is set forth above.

***Double Patenting***

10. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory

double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

**11. Claims 74-75, 79-80, 85-86 and 89-92 are also rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 7, and 39-41 of US Patent 6,451,294, in view of Okada et al. (US Patent 5,463,009), Suzuki et al. (US Patent 6,759,052), and Yau (US Patent 6,109,921), and in further view of Giron et al. (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0067545 A1), Chapman et al. (US Patent 6,121,192), Herbst et al. (Industrial Organic Pigments, published 1993) and Fornay (African-American woman's guide, published 2002).**

The above discussions and response to arguments of Okada et al. (US Patent 5,463,009), Suzuki et al. (US Patent 6,759,052), and Yau (US Patent 6,109,921), and in further view of Giron et al. (US Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0067545 A1), Chapman et al. (US Patent 6,121,192), Herbst et al. and Fornay are incorporated here as stated above.

Claim 7 of US Patent 6,451,294 is directed towards a method for making up human skin, lips, and/or exoskeletal appendages (also recited by claims 39-41) comprising applying a composition process for making up skin comprising a composition comprising an organic dye. Unlike the instant claims, the reference claims

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are not directed to a method of making up dark skin comprising applying a composition comprising reflective particles. However, it would have been obvious to a person of skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add reflective particles as taught by the prior cited art for application to dark skin for additive cosmetic effect. One would have been motivated to add reflective particles to the composition for its additive cosmetic effect because the reference claims and the cited art are concerned with making up of the skin.

Further, it would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use an organic pigment in the preparation. One would have been motivated to do so looking towards the teaching of Okada et al. that organic pigments are acceptable (column 5, lines 25-49) and further motivated by the advantages described throughout Herbst. More specifically, Herbst teaches that organic pigments are advantageous because they are lower in toxicity, both acute and after repeated application (page 595). Further, they show very low irritation effects (Table 37). Such effects are especially advantageous in a topical composition and to the instant method. Suzuki teaches specific pigments.

It also would have been prima facie obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to make the composition instantly claimed in the method titanium dioxide free. One would have been motivated to do so because Fomay teaches that titanium dioxide gives an undesirable ashy or gray appearance to dark skin. Thus, a person of skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have deemed

the instant claims to be an obvious variant of the reference claims in view of the cited prior art.

Claims 74-75, 79-80, 85-86 and 89-92 are directed to an invention not patentably distinct from claims 7 and 39-41 of commonly assigned US Patent 6,451,294.

Specifically, see above.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office normally will not institute an interference between applications or a patent and an application of common ownership (see MPEP Chapter 2300). Commonly assigned US Patent 6,451,294, discussed above, would form the basis for a rejection of the noted claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) if the commonly assigned case qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) and the conflicting inventions were not commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made. In order for the examiner to resolve this issue, the assignee can, under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and 37 CFR 1.78(c), either show that the conflicting inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made, or name the prior inventor of the conflicting subject matter.

A showing that the inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made will preclude a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon the commonly assigned case as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g), or 35 U.S.C. 102(e) for applications pending on or after December 10, 2004.

***Conclusion***

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicoletta Kennedy whose telephone number is (571)270-1343. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 11:30 to 8:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sharmila Gollamudi Landau can be reached on 571-272-0614. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/N. K./  
Examiner, Art Unit 1611

/Anne R Kubelik/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1638